

Message Text

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ACTION MBFR-03

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GENEVA FOR DISTO, USNATO TAKE AS PRIORITY

FROM US REP MBFR

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM

SUBJ: MBFR: HIGHLIGHTS OF MARCH 14 AD HOC GROUP MEETING

1. AD HOC GROUP RECEIVED REPORT OF MEETING MORNING
OF MARCH 14 BETWEEN US AND NETHERLANDS REPS AND
SOVIET AND HUNGARIAN REPS (SEE SEPTTEL). US REP
NOTED THAT MARCH 14 CONVERSATION HAD BEEN
ANOTHER INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF CONCEPTS. IT WAS TOO
EARLY TO ASSESS AND TAKE DEFINITE POSITIONS ON
FRAGMENTARY CONCEPTS ADVANCED BY OTHER SIDE UNTIL
WE KNEW WHAT THEY REALLY AMOUNTED TO. NETHERLANDS
REP STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUING SUCH INFORMAL
EXCHANGES OF CONCEPTS, AVOIDING HARD AND FAST
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POSITIONS AND SEEKING IN VARIOUS WAYS TO ELICIT IDEAS FROM THE OTHER SIDE. HE ALSO NOTED THAT SOVIET REP HAD SPECIFICALLY ASKED WHAT ALLIED SECURITY INTERESTS IN HUNGARY WERE; AND THAT SOVIET REPS HAD INSISTED ON CONCEPT OF IDENTIFYING DIRECT PARTICIPANTS AS "POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS IN FUTURE AGREEMENTS."

2. GROUP DECIDED TO PUT OFF DETAILED DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES RAISED BY EASTERN REPS TO MARCH 15 AD HOC GROUP MEETING. PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON FOLLOWING TOPICS:

- A. SOVIET INTEREST IN LEAVING OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF ADDING FRANCE TO DIRECT PARTICIPANTS;
- B. SOVIET SUGGESTION THAT EAST MIGHT REPLY IN PLENARIES TO UNILATERAL WESTERN STATEMENT ON PARTICIPATION WITH UNILATERAL STATEMENT OF ITS OWN;
- C. SOVIET SUGGESTION THAT PROCEDURES PAPER CONTAIN CRITERION FOR DIRECT PARTICIPATION.

3. WITH REGARD TO LAST TOPIC, FRG NOTED THAT SOVIET INTEREST IN MAKING POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION IN FUTURE AGREEMENTS THE CRITERION XOR DIRECT PARTICIPATION IN CONSULTATIONS WAS CLEARLY RELATED TO STATED SOVIET GOAL OF REACHING DETERMINATION IN CONSULTATIONS ON WHO PARTICIPANTS ON FUTURE AGREEMENTS WILL BE, AND URGED CAUTION IN DEALING WITH THIS CONCEPT. US REP FELT THAT FORMULATION AS PHRASED MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE; IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO REJECT THE CONCEPT SINCE SOVIETS WOULD THEN QUESTION MOTIVES OF DIRECT PARTICIPANTS IN PARTICIPATING IN TALKS, BUT POINT NEEDED TO BE CAREFULLY EXAMINED IN AD HOC GROUP.

NETHERLANDS REP AGREED. FRG AND ITALIAN REPS SUGGESTED SUBSTITUTING "OBJECTIVE" CRITERION OF "STATES WITH FORCES AND TERRITORY IN CENTRAL EUROPE" FOR "SUBJECTIVE" SOVIET CRITERION. US REP POINTED OUT THAT IF GEOGRAPHIC CRITERION WERE ADVANCED FOR INCLUSION OF 11 DIRECT PARTICIPANTS, THIS WOULD AMOUNT TO EXCLUSION OF HUNGARY FROM CENTRAL EUROPE.

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4. CANADIAN AND FRG REPS REPORTED BRIEFLY ON LUNCH WITH HUNGARIAN REP (USTOR) IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MEETING BETWEEN ALLIED AND EASTERN REPS. USTOR HAD SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED FRANCE AS A POSSIBLE PARTICIPANT. HE HAD ALSO INDICATED THAT BOTH HE AND SOVIET REPS WERE AWAITING INSTRUCTIONS FROM THEIR CAPITALS ON CONTENT OF MARCH 13 MEETING WITH ALLIED REPS.

5. US REP URGED THAT AT RECEPTION EVENING OF MARCH 14 BY GREEK REP FOR THE 19 DELEGATIONS, ALLIED REPS SHOULD EXERCISE RESTRAINT REGARDING POINTS DISCUSSED WITH SOVIET AND HUNGARIAN REPS EARLIER THAT DAY. FRG AND UK REPS AGREED THAT ALLIES SHOULD TAKE RESTRICTIVE LINE, STICKING FIRMLY TO ALLIED TALKING POINTS OF MARCH 13 AND NOT GOING BEYOND THEM. FRG REP ADDED THAT ALLIES WERE IN ESPECIALLY DELICATE SITUATION SINCE RECEPTION WAS TAKING PLACE IN THE MIDST OF SERIES OF CONVERSATIONS WITH THE OTHER SIDE. TASK OF ALLIED EMISSARIES WOULD BE MADE EASIER IF ALLIED REPS STUCK CLOSELY TO ALLIANCE POSITIONS, EMPHASIZING THAT US AND NETHERLANDS REPS SPOKE FOR ALLIES.

6. CHAIRMAN (PORTUGAL), CANADIAN REP AND ITALIAN REPS WARMLY THANKED US AND NETHERLANDS REPS FOR WAY IN WHICH THEY WERE DEFENDING ALLIED POSITIONS TO THE EAST. ITALIAN REP DREW GENERAL CONCLUSION THAT EAST WAS QUITE FIRM IN INSISTING THAT HUNGARY AND ITALY BE TREATED IN EXACTLY THE SAME WAY. HE WARNED THAT ALLIES WOULD HAVE TO DRAW TO APPROPRIATE " CONCLUSIONS" FROM THIS. HUMES

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